I MISS THE UK

The Middle Ages

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BY

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THE MIDDLE AGES

FOREWORD

I am so very pleased to manage this book, 'I MISS THE UK' which is the part of the Life in the UK.

This book is about 'The Middle Ages in the UK?' It concerns about:

- the wars that took place in the Middle Ages
- How Parliament began to develop
- The way that land ownership worked
- The effect of the Black Death
- The development of English language and culture
- The Wars of the Roses and the founding of the House of Tudor.

I hope that this book will be useful for the one who interested in the UK, The UK Map, geography, specially, the foreigner students who study and live in the UK.

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The Middle Ages

WAR AT HOME AND ABROAD

- The middle age is about 1485
  - Also called the medieval period
  - It was a time of almost constant war
- In 1284 King Edward I of England introduced the Statute of Rhuddlan, which annexed Wales to the Crown of England
- These were built to maintain this power:
  - Huge castles
  - Conwy
  - Caernarvon
- By the middle of the 15th century the last Welsh rebellions had been defeated. English laws and the English language were introduced
- In 1314 the Scottish, led by Robert the Bruce, defeated the English at the Battle of Bannockburn, and Scotland remained unconquered by the English

- By 1200, the English ruled an area of Ireland known as the Pale, around Dublin
- During the Middle Ages, the English kings also fought a number of wars abroad. Many knights took apart in the Crusades, in which European Christians fought for control of the Holy Land.
- English kings also fought a long war with France called the Hundred Years War (even though it actually lasted 116 years).
- One of the most famous battles of the Hundred Years War was the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, where King Henry V's vastly outnumbered English army defeated the French.
- The English left France in 1450s

THE BLACK DEATH

- The Normans used a system of land ownership known as feudalism
- In the north of Scotland and Ireland, land was owned by members of the 'clans' (prominent families)
- In 1348, a disease, probably a form of plague, came to Britain. This was known as the Black Death

- One third of the population of England died and similar proportion in Scotland and Wales
- **Following the Black Death**:
    - The smaller population meant there was less need to grow cereal crops
    - There were labour shortages
    - Peasants began to demand higher wages
    - New social classes appeared, including owners of large areas of land (later called the gentry)
    - People left the countryside to live in the towns.
    - In the towns growing wealth led to the development of a strong middle class

LEGAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES

- In the Middle Ages, Parliament began to develop into the institution it is today
- In 1215, King John was forced by his noblemen to agree to a number of demands
- The result was a charter of rights called the Magna Carta (which means the Great Charter).
- The Magna Carta established the idea that even the king was subject to the law. It protected the

rights of the nobility and restricted the king's power to

- collect taxes
- make or change laws.

- In the future the king would need to involve his noblemen in decisions
- In England, parliament were called for the king to consult his nobles, particularly when the king needed to raise money
- Who sat in the House of Lords?
  - The nobility
  - great landowners
  - bishops
- Who sat in the House of Common?
  - Knights smaller landowners
  - Wealthy people from towns and cities
- A Similar Parliament developed in Scotland. It had three Houses, called:
  - Estates
    - The lords
    - The commons
    - The clergy

- In England, judges developed ‘common law’ by:
    - process of precedence (that is, following previous decisions)
    - Tradition
- In Scotland, the legal system developed slightly differently and laws were ‘codified’ (that is, written down)

A DISTINCT IDENTITY

- After the Norman Conquest,
    - the king and his noblemen had spoken Norman French
    - the peasants had continued to speak Anglo-Saxon
- Gradually these two languages combined to become one English language
- Some words in modern English are based on Norman French, for example:
    - *Park*
    - *Beauty*
- Others are based on Anglo-Saxon words, for example:

- *Apple*
- *Cow*
- *Summer*

- In modern English there are often two words with very similar meaning, from:
  - French for example: demand
  - Anglo-Saxon for example: *ask*
- By 1400, in England, official documents were being written in English, and English had become the preferred language of the royal court and Parliament
- In the years leading up to 1400 Geofferey Chaucer wrote a series of poems in English about a group of people going Canterbury on a pilgrimage
- The Canterbury Tales is about:
  - The people decided to tell each other stories on the journey
  - The poems describe the travellers and some of the stories they told
- The Canterbury is one of the first books to be printed by William
- Caxton, the first person in England to print books using a printing press

- Some of the stories have been made into:
    - Plays
    - Television programmes
- In Scotland, many people continued to speak Gaelic and Scots language also developed. A number of poets began to write in the Scots language. One example is John Barbour, who wrote The Bruce about the Battle of Bannockburn
- The Middle Ages also saw a change in the type of buildings in Britain.
- Castle are built in many places in Britain and Ireland, partly for defence
- Today many are in ruins, although some are still in use, such as:
    - Windsor
    - Edinburgh
- Great cathedrals – for example, Lincoln Cathedral – were also built, and many of these are still used for worship.
- Several of the cathedrals had windows of stained glass, telling stories about:
    - The Bible
    - Christian saints

- The glass in York Minster is a famous example
- During this period (the Middle Ages)
    - English wool became a very important export
    - People came to England from abroad to:
        - trade
        - work
    - Many had special skills, such as:
        - Weavers from France
        - Engineers from Germany
        - Glass manufacturers from Italy
        - Canal builders from Holland

THE WARS OF THE ROSES

- In 1455, a civil war was begun to decide who should be king of England. It was fought between the supporters of two families:
    - The House of Lancaster
    - The House of York
- This war was called the Wars of the Roses, because:

    - The symbol of Lancaster was a red rose
    - The symbol of York was a white rose
- The war ended with the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485
- King Richard III of the House of York was killed in the battle and Henry Tudor, the leader of the House of Lancaster, became King Henry VII
- Henry then married King Richard's niece, Elizabeth of York, and united the two families

- Henry was the first king of the House of Tudor
- The symbol of the House of Tudor was a red rose with a white rose inside it as a sign that the Houses of York and Lancaster were now allies

SUMMARIZE

- About 1485 was a time of almost constant war, is called the Middle Ages or the medieval period
- In 1284 King Edward I of England introduced the Statu of Rhuddlan. It annexed Wales to the crown of England
- By the middle of the 15th century the English language were introduced
- In 1314 the Scottish, led by Robert the Bruce, defeated the English at the Battle of Bannockburn
- By 1200, the English ruled an area of Ireland known as the Pale, around Dublin
- During the Middle Ages, the English kings also fought a number of wars abroad. Many knights took part in the Crusades, in which European Christians fought for control of the Holy Land
- England also fought a long war with France, called the Hundred Years War (lasted 116 years).
- One of the more famous battles of the Hundred Years War was the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, where King Henry V's vastly outnumbered English army defeated the French
- The English left France in the 1450s
- The Normans used a system of land ownership known as feudalism

- North of Scotland and Ireland, land was owned by members of the 'clans' (prominent families)
- In 1348, a disease, probably a form of plague, came to Britain. This was known as the Black Death
- One third of the population of England died and a similar proportion in Scotland and Wales
- In the Middle Ages, Parliament began to develop into the institution it is today
- In 1215, King John was forced by his noblemen to agree to a number of demands. The result was a charter of rights called the Magna Carta (Great Charter)
- The Magna Carta established the idea that even the king was subject to the law. It protected the rights of the nobility and restricted the king's power to collect taxes or to make or change laws.
- In England, parliament were called for the king to consult his nobles, particularly when the king needed to raise money
- The nobility, great landowners and bishop sat in the House of Lords
- Knights, who were usually smaller landowner, and wealthy people from towns and cities were elected to sit in the House of Commons
- In Scotland had three houses, called Estates: the lords, the commons and the clergy
- In England, judges developed 'common law'

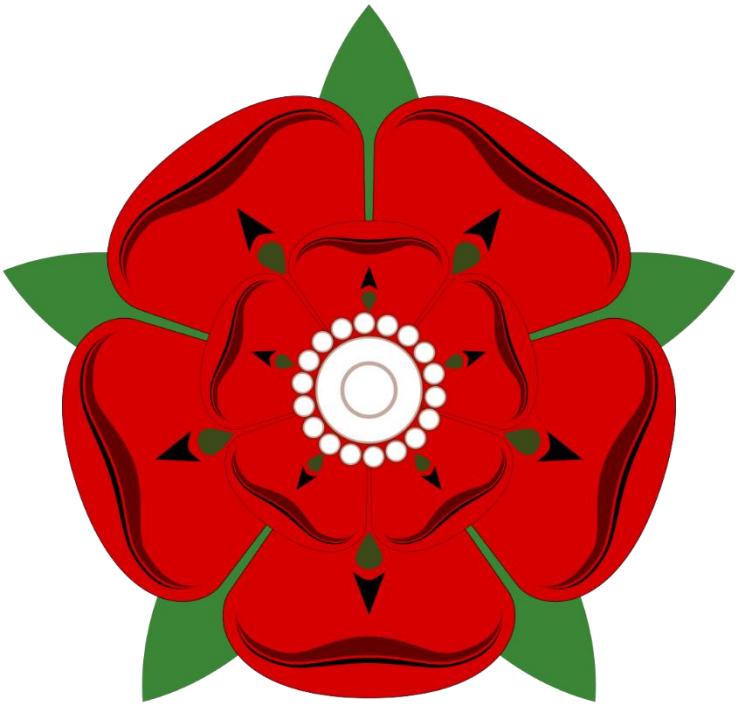
- In Scotland, the legal system developed slightly differently and laws were ‘codified’ (written down)
- After the Norman Conquest, the king and his noblemen had spoken Norman French and the peasants had continued to speak Anglo-Saxon
- By 1400 English had become the preferred language of the royal court and Parliament
- Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a series of poems in English about a group of people going to Canterbury on a pilgrimage, called The Canterbury Tales. It was one of the first books to be printed by William
- Caxton, the first person in England to print books using a printing press. Some have been made into plays and television programmes
- In Scotland, many people continued to speak Gaelic and the Scottish language also developed
- John Barbour wrote The Bruce about the Battle of Bannockburn in Scots language
- Several of the cathedrals had windows of stained glass, tell stories about the Bible and Christian saints. I The glass in York Minster is a famous example
- During English wool became a very important export. People came to England from abroad to trade and also to work
- In 1455, a civil war was begun to decide who should be king of England. It was fought between the House of

Lancaster and the House of York. This war was called the Wars of the Roses

- The symbol of Lancaster was a red rose and the symbol of York was a white rose
- The war ended with the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.
- Henry Tudor, the leader of the House of Lancaster, became King Henry VII. He was the first king of the House of Tudor
- The symbol of the House of Tudor was a red rose with a white rose inside

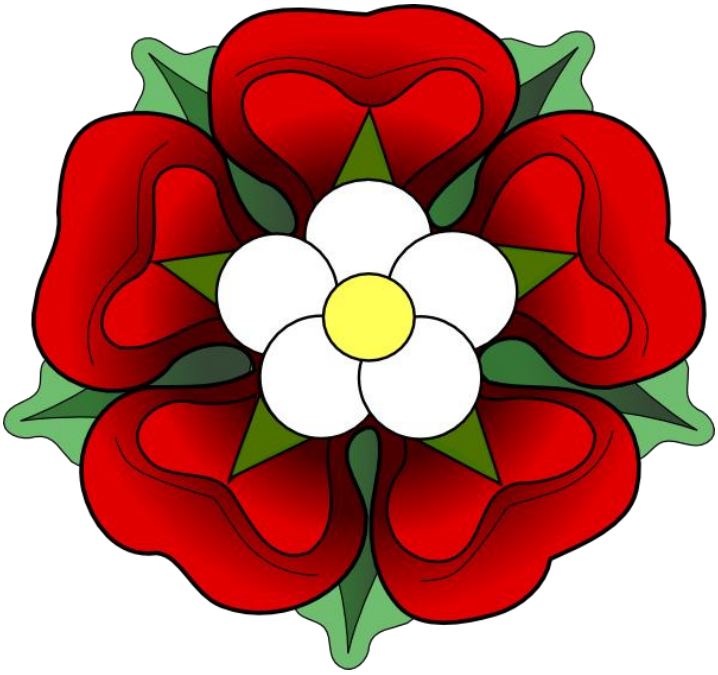
APPENDIX

York Minster Stained Glass



The Red Rose of Lancaster

The White Rose of York



The Red and white Rose of the House of Tudor

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